

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A data entry method comprising:
in a computer-based ~~data~~ medical record including a plurality of data fields, defining one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired; and
automatically populating at least one of the one or more data fields with desired field data from a data source, said automatically populating comprising: receiving, by a computer-based application that is stored to a computer-readable medium and executing on a processor-based computer, a schedule for contacting said data source to prompt said data source for the desired field data for said at least one data field;
triggering, by said computer-based application, contacting [[a]] said data source in possession of the desired field data in accordance with said schedule; and
receiving, by said computer-based application, the desired field data from the data source.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising updating, by said computer-based application, the computer-based data medical record to include the received desired field data.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the data source is a patient and the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of the patient.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein contacting a data source includes:

authenticating the data source.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein authenticating the data source includes:

requiring that the data source enter an electronic password; and receiving the electronic password.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein authenticating the data source includes:

requiring that the data source speak a verbal password; and receiving the verbal password.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein authenticating the data source includes:

requiring that the data source provide an authenticating digital certificate; and receiving the authenticating digital certificate.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein contacting a data source includes:

transmitting an email to the data source.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein contacting a data source further includes:

providing the data source with text-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein contacting a data source includes:

telephonically contacting the data source.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein contacting a data source includes:

providing the data source with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable that can accept any numeric value within a range of valid numeric values.

14. (Currently Amended) A data entry method comprising:
in a computer-based medical record including a plurality of data fields, defining one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired, wherein the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of a patient; and

automatically populating at least one of the one or more data fields with desired field data from the patient, said automatically populating comprising:

receiving, by a computer-based application that is stored to a computer-readable medium and executing on a processor-based computer, a schedule for contacting said patient to prompt said patient for the desired field data for said at least one data field;

triggering, by said computer-based application, telephonically contacting the patient;

receiving, by said computer-based application, the desired field data from the patient; and

updating, by said computer-based application, the computer-based medical record to include the received desired field data.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein telephonically contacting the patient includes:

authenticating the patient.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein authenticating the patient includes:

requiring that the patient enter an electronic password; and
receiving the electronic password.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein authenticating the patient includes:

requiring that the patient speak a verbal password; and
receiving the verbal password.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein telephonically contacting the patient includes:

providing the patient with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable that can accept any numeric value within a range of valid numeric values.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

in a computer-based data medical record including a plurality of data fields, define one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired, wherein the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of a patient;

schedule one or more times for contacting a data source to prompt said data source for the desired field data for said at least one data field;

contact, in accordance with the schedule, [[a]] said data source in possession of the desired field data; and
receive the desired field data from the data source.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising instructions for updating the computer-based data record to include the desired field data.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:
authenticating the data source.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for authenticating the data source include instructions for:
requiring that the data source enter an electronic password; and
receiving the electronic password.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for authenticating the data source include instructions for:
requiring that the data source speak a verbal password; and
receiving the verbal password.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for authenticating the data source include instructions for:

requiring that the data source provide an authenticating digital certificate;
and
receiving the authenticating digital certificate.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:
transmitting an email to the data source.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source further include instructions for:
providing the data source with text-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:
telephonically contacting the data source.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the instructions for contacting a data source include instructions for:
providing the data source with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable that can accept any numeric value within a range of valid numeric values.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

in a computer-based medical record including a plurality of data fields, define one or more data fields for which desired field data is to be acquired, wherein the medical record defines at least a portion of the medical history of a patient;

in accordance with a defined contact schedule, autonomously
telephonically contact the patient for requesting the desired field data from the patient;

receive the desired field data from the patient;

update the computer-based medical record to include the desired field data.

34. (Original) The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the instructions for telephonically contacting the patient include instructions for:
authenticating the patient.

35. (Original) The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the instructions for authenticating the patient include instructions for:
requiring that the patient enter an electronic password; and
receiving the electronic password.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the instructions for authenticating the patient include instructions for:
requiring that the patient speak a verbal password; and
receiving the verbal password.

37. (Original) The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the instructions for telephonically contacting the patient include instructions for:
providing the patient with speech-based instructions concerning the desired field data.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the desired field data concerns a numeric range-based variable that can accept any numeric value within a range of valid numeric values.

39. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving, by the computer-based application, selection of said at least one data field for which said data source is to be contacted in accordance with said schedule to prompt said data source for the desired field data.

40. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
receiving, by the computer-based application, selection of said at least one data field for which said patient is to be contacted in accordance with said schedule to prompt said patient for the desired field data.

41. (New) The computer program product of claim 33 further comprising instructions for receiving selection of at least one of the one or more data fields for which said patient is to be contacted in accordance with defined contact schedule for requesting corresponding desired field data from the patient.